

UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

May 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The recent UWF Sunday on April 14 was a resounding success, showcasing the dedication and hard work of all the volunteers involved. See more information on UWF Sunday in the article on page 2.

Reflecting on the Easter celebrations, the choir sent a note expressing heartfelt appreciation to those who provided breakfast items that morning.

Looking ahead, please plan for the upcoming Hands-on-Mission Week scheduled from May 13 to May 18. Under the capable leadership of Chair Grace Holloway, a diverse array of engaging activities awaits, promising a rewarding experience for participants. Those who have not yet signed up are encouraged to do so at May circle meetings.

Save the date for dining out on May 30 at Tuscany Ristorante, located at 4854 Longhill Road, from 4-9 pm. Diners can indulge in delicious cuisine while supporting UWF as Tuscany will graciously donate a portion of the proceeds to UWF. Reservations are recommended (757) 378-3486.

The Candle Burning program is being planned for Saturday, June 8. This special ceremony, held on the front lawn, offers a poignant opportunity to honor and celebrate our loved ones. Join others who come together to commemorate cherished memories and celebrate the enduring bonds that connect us all.

As May arrives, take a moment to revel in the beauty of nature surrounding us. Sing with the birds, watch for the butterflies, savor the fragrance of blossoms in the air, and connect with neighbors across the fence.

Linda



CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

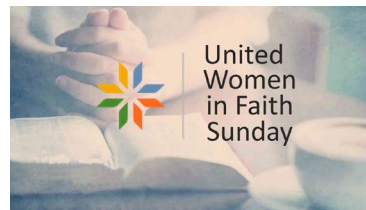
Carol Scott met on April 9 with 9 members attending. Fran Finlan gave the Devotion followed by sharing of information by four Board members. Connie Bland reviewed plans for UMF Sunday. Grace Holloway informed the group of each activity available during Hands-On-Mission week. Anne Hardister brought Emporium flyers for members to distribute. Sylvia Allgood visited to talk about plans for Candle Burning. Doris McElfresh gave the program from the book "Multiplying Love Together," a vision of United Methodist life together.

Friendship met on April 9 with 8 present and 3 guests. Diane Kieffaver presented an informative program on Heifer International. After business items, the group made plans to visit Vivian Golding at Commonwealth on April 19.

Heritage met on Tuesday, April 2, with 15 members and 2 guests present. Barbara Stanley provided the program about the Hope Center in Latvia. Following the business meeting, a group went to Ishaban restaurant for lunch.

Ruth Simpson met on April 3 with 6 members present and 2 guests. Connie Bland, UWF Vice President, talked about the new UWF Library, its location, and how to check out books. She then discussed the UWF Reading Program and how to participate to either work toward a reading certificate or to just read books recommended by the UWF Program Resources Committee. Connie encouraged joining the Carol Brinkley Memorial Book Club and explained how it has evolved over the past several years. During the business meeting that followed, ladies were able to sign up to volunteer for Hands-on-Mission Week. Members brought donations for Avalon.

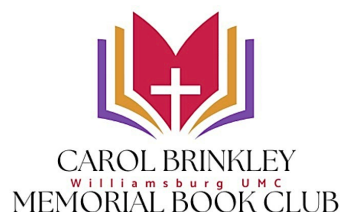
Sisters in Grace met April 9 with 19 members and 3 guests present. Nancy Moore shared an inspirational study from the latest Response Magazine concerning the history of Indian tribes from VA and their ill treatment. Nancy then meaningfully read Psalm 77 which gives hope and comfort to those in despair. Terry McKenna closed the meeting in prayer. WUMC's very own Gerald Bullock, W&M's Executive Director of Development, Arts and Sciences, then led a fascinating tour of the new Performing Arts Center.



On Sunday April 14, United Women in Faith orchestrated an enriching worship experience; seamlessly blending the uplifting melodies of the sanctuary choir, orchestra, and organ. Rev. Becky Glass, Executive Director of Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center, delivered the message centered around the theme of Gifts of Hope & Healing; drawing inspiration from Luke 13:10-17. Over 50 women, from as old as 9 to as young as 94, participated in this year's worship: Readers, Greeters, Ushers, Acolytes, Hospitality Table Refreshment Bakers, Atrium Coffee Servers, and UWF Information Table Hosts. The congregation provided many positive expressions about the meaningfulness and relevance of the entire worship experience. Those who were unable to attend can find a recording on the WUMC website.



Sisters in Mission met on April 9 with 12 members and 1 guest attending. They gathered at the location of Fill Happy, a recently opened small business that focuses on and encourages finding sustainable natural products for personal hygiene and household cleaning that can be purchased in reusable containers. Owner Yana Flores and her husband shared their knowledge and expertise in this area with members, who were able to tour their store and purchase products which had been introduced.



The next book club meeting is Monday, May 13, at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Finding Jesus at the Border by Julia Lambert Fogg will be the book discussed. Immigration is a "hot button" topic with everyone having his/her own distinctive views on the subject. But how should Christians respond? Join the book group for a time of honest discussion, seeking to discern and ask, "What if we really did find Jesus at the border?" For the Zoom link, contact Cindy Banek, banek1@cox.net.



WORLD THANK May 19 is National NASCAR Day and National Bike to Work Day. In addition, May 28 is Indianapolis 500 Day. That's lots of wheels. Own a car? a bike? a scooter? a wheelchair? Count all the wheels owned and multiply by 5 cents; then drop those coins into the World Thank jar.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Concern and healing prayers for Carolyn Munro as she recovers from a hip fracture, for Dotti Carns as she experiences medical issues, for Valerie Lamb as she recovers from an accident, for Madelyn Larkin as she moves to Spring Arbor. Joy with Fran Lane as she continues her recovery, now at home.